



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 January 2006

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports Amtrak's Silver Meteor train arrived in New York's Penn Station from Orlando more than 28 hours late on New Year's Eve, after the train had been stuck in Jacksonville and then rural Georgia due to a derailed CSX freight train closing the tracks. (See item [13](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program has completed installation of biometric entry capabilities at all fixed ports of entry open to US-VISIT travelers, as mandated by Congress with a December 31, 2005 deadline. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports health officials say the U.S. is making good progress in preparations for a bird flu pandemic, including measures to close down schools and quarantine the sick, but vaccine supplies remain inadequate. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 30, Associated Press* — **Oil prices end year 40 percent higher.** Oil futures settled above \$61 a barrel Friday, December 30, and finished 40 percent higher than they started in 2005, capping a tough year for energy consumers but a great one for the petroleum industry as

prices soared amid strong demand and tight supplies. Many analysts believe the average price of oil will be below \$60 in 2006, but not by much as U.S. and Chinese economic growth continues and Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries members express growing interest in a production cut, perhaps as early as the first quarter. While unthinkable just a few years ago, a price near \$50 a barrel would actually be welcome news to energy-intensive industries such as airlines and trucking companies, who have retooled their operations to use fuel more efficiently. There are signs that some homeowners and motorists are also making small changes to keep their energy consumption in check, though analysts say demand is still on the rise and that the tight supply of refining capacity in the U.S. is likely to boost the country's dependence on imports and keep pump prices high.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/30/AR2005123000282.html>

2. *December 29, Associated Press* — **U.S. oil companies to end absence in Libya.** Three U.S. oil companies said on Thursday, December 29, they will end a 19-year absence in Libya and pay \$1.83 billion to resume oil production. ConocoPhillips Co., Marathon Oil Corp. and Amerada Hess Corp. will share the production from a 350,000-barrel a day operation with the Libyan National Oil Corp. The return to Libya reflects renewed U.S. interests in the North African country after the U.S. government last year lifted nearly two decades of economic sanctions. In a February 2005 report, the U.S. Department of Energy said Libya is ready to become a major oil exporter again, especially to Europe. Oil companies worldwide have been seeking to renew as well as pursue new exploration and production rights in Libya.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/29/AR2005122901115.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

3. *January 01, Statesville Record and Landmark (NC)* — **Dust fueled deadly Purina mill explosions.** The exact cause of the explosions that ripped through the Land O'Lakes/Purina feed mill Friday, December 28, fatally injuring one employee and burning another remains unknown. But investigators have determined how the fire spread so fast and violently throughout the 40,000-square-foot plant. Iredell County Fire Marshal Lloyd Ramsey said that the blaze began when sparks ignited dust in the milling operations in the basement level of the tower building, setting off a series of explosions that ripped through the plant. The initial explosion was small but stirred up more dust, which created another explosion, and another, each growing in magnitude, Ramsey said. The spark could have come from a machine malfunction or even static electricity, he said. "Everything goes through pipes...Anything could have gotten in there and caused this to happen," he said. The blasts began around 4:30 a.m. EST Friday while eight people worked the third shift. Mocksville resident Jimmy Booe, 24, died Saturday morning, December 31, from burns he received in the explosions. The fire, which burned all day Friday and into Saturday morning is mostly extinguished. The explosions made the tower building structurally unstable, Ramsey said.

Source: http://www.statesville.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=SRL%2FMGArticle%2FSRL_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128769042801&path=%21frontpage

4. *December 29, Associated Press* — **Massachusetts' highway closed after possible Hazmat spill.** A stretch of Route 9 eastbound in Westborough, MA, was closed for a time Thursday, December 29, after a truck carrying radiological medical material crashed on the highway. A spokesperson for the state environmental affairs office says a box of the hazardous liquid broke when the truck collided with a pickup. None of the vials in the box broke, and tests showed normal radiation levels. Radiological material, commonly used in medical testing equipment, was being transported in a truck owned by Cardinal Health Link of Woburn. No injuries were reported.
Source: http://www.wrgb.com/news/regional/regional.asp?selection=article_45483
5. *December 29, NBC-11 (CA)* — **Officials investigate source of mercury spill in California.** Livermore, CA, fire officials said Thursday, December 29, that a mercury spill in a residential neighborhood has been contained, no one has been injured and no evacuations have been required. Livermore Fire Department Division Chief Glen Haendel said a passerby spotted mercury in gutters at the intersection of Olivina and Bernal avenues about 3 p.m. PST Wednesday, December 28. Haendel said firefighters responded to make sure the mercury didn't get into storm drains and called the California Environmental Protection Agency for assistance. Although no one was evacuated, residents were asked to shelter in place, and were permitted to come and go from the neighborhood. The source of the mercury spill is still under investigation, Haendel said. Mercury vapor can affect the human nervous system, lungs, kidneys, skin, and eyes.
Source: <http://www.nbc11.com/morenews/5711225/detail.html>
6. *December 29, KCRA-3 (CA)* — **Potentially fatal gas leak at sewage treatment plant in California.** A potentially fatal gas leak at a sewage treatment plant has occurred in Olivehurst, CA, near Sacramento. Western Water — one of the largest environmental companies in the state — shut down the site after chlorine gas was accidentally released. The Western Water claims that the alarm was turned off and that its workers had no idea there was a leak. Tim Shaw, of the Olivehurst Public Utility District, says that no lives were ever at risk, adding that just a very small amount of gas leaked out. He also said that the alarm system worked. A report by the plant's chief operator says the alarm sounded but the warning lights failed to work. Shaw said all the problems have been addressed, and the alarm system has been repaired.
Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/10642669/from/RSS/>
7. *December 28, Toledo Blade (OH)* — **Refinery pipe in Ohio spills gasoline components.** A leak at a Sunoco refinery early Monday morning, December 26, in Oregon, OH, forced dozens of workers to stay home on Tuesday, December 27. About 100 gallons of gasoline components leaked from an underground pipeline at the Sunoco Inc.'s refinery, near an ongoing construction project there. Officials said about five or six gallons of the leak included a carcinogenic gaseous component known as benzene. About 200 contract construction workers, who were not scheduled to work Monday, were sent home or told to stay at home yesterday as a precaution, officials said. The workers are contracted to complete a \$100 million hydrogen production complex owned by BOC Group Inc. on the northeast corner of the property. The area of the leak was cleaned with a vacuum tanker truck, and gas in the area was allowed to dissipate naturally. Jeanette Ball, manager of Toledo's department of environmental services, said her department took air samples for benzene at the property's perimeter and determined that the leak had been contained to the property. She said "minimal" traces of benzene were found,

traces well within the Environmental Protection Agency's standard.

Source: <http://www.toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051228/NEWS01/512280400/0/NEWS>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *December 30, Reuters* — **EADS, ThyssenKrupp to buy BAE naval firm.** European aerospace group EADS and Germany's ThyssenKrupp Technologies said on Friday, December 30, they would jointly buy Atlas Elektronik from BAE Systems, in a move aimed at strengthening Europe's fragmented naval industry. ThyssenKrupp Technologies will own 60 percent of Atlas Elektronik, which makes sonar equipment for submarines and ships, with EADS holding the remaining 40 percent. BAE, Europe's largest defense equipment company, had put Atlas up for sale earlier this year, which some analysts said indicated a shift toward focusing more on the larger U.S. defense market. The takeover of Atlas, whose equipment is used in submarines and other vessels, comes as Europe's naval shipbuilding industry starts to consolidate in the face of stiff global competition. Europe's military shipyards have come under pressure due to tight defense budgets, increasing demands for integration among ships and the systems they carry, and mounting competition from the United States and Asia.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/business/business-arms-atlas-eads.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *December 30, Central Valley Business Times (CA)* — **California cracks down on phishing.** Legislation that will protect California consumers from identity theft and increase penalties for spam goes into effect in January. One new law, SB355, makes the practice of Internet phishing a crime in California. Phishing is practiced by Internet hackers who use e-mail to hook consumers into giving them personal information such as Social Security numbers or credit card numbers. This information is then used to defraud consumers. Another new law, SB97, provides that a person who violates California's anti-spam law by sending unsolicited commercial electronic mail (spam) has committed a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$1,000, imprisonment in a county jail for not more than six months, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

Source: <http://www.centralvalleybusinesstimes.com/stories/001/?ID=1046>

10. *December 30, Department of the Treasury* — **Treasury announces interim guidance on Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005.** The Department of the Treasury issued interim guidance to assist the insurance industry in meeting new requirements for the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program. On December 22, 2005, President Bush signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act (TRIA) of 2005, which reauthorizes the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program for two years, while expanding the private sector role and reducing the federal share of compensation for insured losses under the program. The interim guidance is designed to assist insurers in complying with changes to the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program

made by the Extension Act, many of which come into effect on January 1, 2006. The guidance responds to a number of operational issues that arise under the new law, including: continuing compliance with TRIA's mandatory availability and policyholder disclosure requirements; determination of the types of property and casualty insurance now included and newly excluded from TRIA; and how the newly enacted program trigger for the federal share of compensation will work.

Interim Guidance on Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005:

http://www.treasury.gov/offices/domestic-finance/financial-institution/terrorism-insurance/pdf/interim_guidance_dec292005.pdf

Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/js3066.htm>

11. *December 30, Associated Press* — **Bank of America to close MBNA deal.** Beginning Sunday, January 1, Bank of America Corp. will complete its \$35 billion acquisition of MBNA Corp. When the paperwork is complete, the nation's second-largest bank will have 40 million active credit card accounts on its ledger, making it one of the leading worldwide payments-services companies and issuers of credit, debit and prepaid cards based on total purchase volume. MBNA is the leader in so-called affinity marketing, with established branding relationships with more than 5,000 organizations and financial institutions.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/051230/bank_of_america_mbna.html?v=8

12. *December 31, Australian Associated Press* — **More e-mail banking scams emerge.** New hoax Websites involved in an e-mail banking scam have started springing up in Australia in place of sites already shut down. Three major Australian banks — National Australia Bank (NAB), Westpac Bank, and the Commonwealth Bank — earlier reported that customers had been targeted with bogus bank e-mails from websites in Asia and Europe. Often bearing what looked like official letterheads, the e-mails asked for banking details, for either security or software upgrades. The scam's aim is to steal bank customers' personal information by capturing their passwords and log-on details when they click on an e-mail link. Some e-mails also contained Trojans. The NAB and Australian Federal Police had managed to close down eight Websites in China, Turkey, Korea, and Germany that had been linked to the "phishing" scam operating Australia-wide. However, NAB spokesperson Mikala Sabin said late Friday, December 30, the bank detected three more scam Websites, which it is in the process of putting out of action as well. Westpac Bank head of media relations David Lording said, "This is a large attack, certainly one of the largest that we have seen for some time."

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/more-email-banking-scams-emerge/2005/12/31/1135915700231.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Transportation and Border Security Sector

13. *January 01, Associated Press* — **Angry Amtrak travelers reach New York 28 hours late.** Amtrak's Silver Meteor train arrived in New York from Orlando, FL, more than 28 hours late on New Year's Eve, releasing more than 100 exhausted, hungry and angry passengers. Their train had been stuck in Jacksonville, FL, for half a day because of a derailed CSX freight train, then stopped again in rural Georgia as they waited for the tracks to reopen. A litany of complaints echoed through New York's Penn Station as 100 passengers finally stepped off the

escalator from the tracks below. Amtrak said it was unfortunate the derailment occurred along the main corridor between the Northeast and the Southeast regions. "We were unable to take an alternate route," Amtrak spokesperson Tracy Connell said. "We deeply regret the inconvenience to our passengers and the delay." Some train cars ran out of toilet paper. People ran out of money to buy food. Young children were cranky and scared, and some adults were concerned about running out of medications, passengers said. A passenger said the only free meal Amtrak offered during the delay was a sandwich, a can of soda and chips. No water. Many passengers said they wanted refunds. It costs from \$100 to \$200 per person to travel from Orlando to New York, depending on the seating class.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2005-12-30-amtrak-delay_x.htm

14. *December 30, Department of Transportation* — **Pipeline safety agency proposes fine against Oklahoma operator for safety violations.** The Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on Thursday, December 29, proposed a \$600,000 fine against Williams Gas Pipeline-Transco of Tulsa, OK, for federal pipeline safety violations resulting in the release of natural gas and the evacuation of over 850 school children and other residents in a heavily populated northern Virginia neighborhood. This action follows PHMSA's investigation of an October 3, 2005 incident in Chantilly, VA, in which Williams' workers struck the company's own 36-inch natural gas pipeline during maintenance operations. During the investigation, PHMSA's inspectors determined Williams failed to properly locate its underground pipelines for digging or excavation activities; failed to ensure personnel performing covered tasks were appropriately qualified; did not follow written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities; and neglected to provide proper pipeline records — including construction maps — to appropriate personnel. The proposed fine demonstrates PHMSA's stepped-up effort to improve operator safety performance and promote compliance, said PHMSA Acting Administrator Brigham A. McCown. He added that his agency is considering tougher requirements for all operator qualifications as a result of the Chantilly and other incidents.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/phmsa0405.htm>

15. *December 30, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS completes foundation of biometric entry system.** The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) US-VISIT program has completed installation of biometric entry capabilities at 104 land border ports, as mandated by Congress. Biometric entry capabilities are now deployed at all fixed ports of entry open to US-VISIT travelers. US-VISIT installed biometric entry procedures at the 50 busiest land border ports along the U.S. Canada and U.S.-Mexico land borders as of December 29, 2004, meeting the December 31, 2004 deadline. The deployment of biometric entry procedures to each of the remaining 104 land border ports of entry is also ahead of the congressional deadline of December 31, 2005. US-VISIT is a continuum of security measures that collect biometric and biographic information from visitors at U.S. visa-issuing posts upon their arrival and departure from U.S. air, sea and land border ports. The program enhances security by verifying each visitors' identity and by comparing their biometric and biographical information against watch lists of terrorists, criminals, and immigration violators. Since January 2004, US-VISIT has processed more than 44 million visitors, which makes the program the largest-scale application of biometrics in the world. US-VISIT currently applies to all visitors entering the United States, regardless of country of origin, or whether they are traveling on a visa with certain exemptions.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_re lease_0823.xml

16. *December 29, Times Online (UK)* — **Air-rage passenger dumped on island.** A drunken passenger who abused cabin crew on a flight to Tenerife spent 36 hours castaway after the airline abandoned him on a tiny island in the Atlantic, 300 miles from his destination. Monarch Airlines said that the man became rude and aggressive towards staff shortly after flight ZB558 took off from Manchester, England, on Tuesday evening, December 27. When he refused to calm down, the pilot took the decision to divert the plane and make an unscheduled stop-off at an airstrip on the tiny Portuguese island of Porto Santo. The passenger was frogmarched out — and his luggage removed from the hold — before the Airbus A321 carrying 200 other passengers took off again, leaving him behind. Porto Santo, described as an island paradise with a population of fewer than 5,000, is a two-hour ferry ride away from the nearest major airport on Madeira. An officer at the airport's police station told Times Online that the man had remained on the island until Thursday morning, December 29, when he managed to book a seat on a German charter flight to the Canary Islands. A spokesperson for Monarch, the Italian-owned operation based in Manchester, explained that the man had put the safety of other passengers in danger. Keith Bill, of British Airline Pilots' Association, said that the captain of any aircraft has wide-ranging powers to deal with troublemakers who threaten the safety of other passengers.

Source: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0..2-1962371.00.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

Agriculture Sector

17. *January 01, Associated Press* — **Government says Wyoming now free of viral livestock disease.** Federal officials have declared a Riverton, WY, area farm free of vesicular stomatitis (VS), lifting the last of the quarantines on affected livestock in the state, the Wyoming Livestock Board announced Thursday, December 29. Owen Henderson of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service conducted his final examination of the Fremont County farm on Wednesday, December 28, and found all of the animals to be healthy. VS is a viral disease characterized by blister-like lesions on the mouths and tongues of horses, cattle and other livestock. The disease is rarely fatal, but it can cause painful sores, and animals might refuse food and water, causing weight loss and reducing their market value. Wyoming, which hadn't had a case of VS in nearly a decade before the first August diagnosis, was one of several states to have VS outbreaks this year; Montana and Nebraska were able to lift their quarantines last month. In Wyoming, horses and cattle on 141 farms in 15 counties were infected.

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2006/01/01/news/wyoming/e470daa01b7fdad2872570e600828c01.txt>

18. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Chronic wasting disease spreads.** Officials on Thursday, December 29, said chronic wasting disease (CWD) has been found in two deer in Colorado outside an area in the north-central part of the state where the disease had previously been documented. One deer was found in poor physical condition by a landowner west of Bonny Reservoir near Burlington, said Michael Seraphin of the Colorado Division of Wildlife. The second deer was found dead on Colorado 96 west of Pueblo. Both animals tested positive after tissue was sent to Colorado State University's Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory.

CWD information: <http://www.cwd-info.org/>

Source: <http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2005/12/31/news/regional/de57c990f15f8be7872570e7007551f9.txt>

19. *December 30, Reuters* — **China reveals new outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.** An outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) forced the killing of 91 cattle in northeastern China. Cattle on a farm in Shandong province developed symptoms this month. The culling commenced on December 29 after cattle were found to have contracted the disease, the agricultural ministry said Friday, December 30. The provincial government has since quarantined the farm where the outbreak occurred, and ordered inoculations for animals in the area. This year alone, China has killed and incinerated thousands of head of cattle to control the outbreak of the Asia type 1 FMD, officials say. Outbreaks have been reported on the outskirts of Beijing, neighboring Hebei province, eastern Jiangsu province, the western region of Xinjiang, and in Shandong.

FMD information: http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/fiches/A_A010.HTM

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-12-31T034140Z_01_KNE113215_RTRUKOC_0_US-CHINA-FOOTANDMOUTH.xml&archived=False

[[Return to top](#)]

Food Sector

20. *December 31, Chicago Tribune (IL)* — **U.S. to investigate mercury levels in canned fish.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will investigate whether tens of millions of cans of tuna sold each year contain potentially hazardous levels of mercury. Responding to a Chicago Tribune series on mercury in fish, the FDA said it will review the possibility that there are elevated mercury levels in some cans of light tuna. The Chicago Tribune revealed that the U.S. tuna industry is using a potentially high-mercury tuna species, yellowfin, to make about 15 percent of the 1.2 billion cans of light tuna sold annually. In an interview, David Acheson, the FDA's chief medical officer, said the agency had been unaware that some canned light tuna was made with a species that often is high in mercury. "We will definitely look at it through our office of seafood and determine whether there is something that requires further pursuit," Acheson said. He could not say exactly what the investigation would entail or whether the agency would conduct additional testing of canned tuna.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0512310211dec31.1.2450043.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

21. *December 30, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Consumer alert issued on contaminated pet food.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is conducting an

investigation into the deaths and illnesses of dogs that consumed pet food contaminated with a potent toxin called aflatoxin. To date, FDA is aware of 23 dogs that have died and another 18 dogs that have become ill. The pet food is made by Diamond Pet Food at its Gaston, SC, facility. Aflatoxin comes from a fungus found on corn and other crops and can cause severe liver damage in pets. FDA also has discovered that some of the recalled product was exported to at least 29 countries, including countries within the European Union. These countries have been notified. FDA is continuing to investigate the situation and is working closely with the state feed regulatory agencies in the affected states.

Additional recall information: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond12_05.html

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01290.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

22. *January 01, Honolulu Advertiser (HI)* — Flu plan foresees 1,000 dead, roads closed. The state plan to cope with an influenza pandemic in Hawaii paints a grim picture of the possibility of overwhelmed hospitals, 1,000 influenza deaths statewide in eight weeks, and hospital workers who become sick themselves trying to cope with the outbreak. The model the state used to estimate the impact of an influenza pandemic assumes one in four people statewide would become ill, and 5,000 would need to be hospitalized in an eight-week outbreak. The draft "Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan" warns that the state's isolation may mean outside help will be slow to arrive. The draft Hawaii plan, which is pending final approval from state Health Director Chiyome Fukino, calls for the Health Department to stockpile and assume control over all antiviral medicines as an alert is issued or influenza virus first appears in animals. A state Health Department Operations Center would be activated as the first cases appear in humans, with hospitals and laboratories preparing their "surge capacity" to cope with expected additional patients. As it becomes clear the virus is being transmitted between humans, the plan calls for quarantine and isolation efforts to try to stop the influenza spread.

State report: <http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/dailypix/2006/Jan/01/flupl an.pdf>

Source: <http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060101/NEWS15/601010334/1001/NEWS>

23. *January 01, Associated Press* — U.S. says it's making progress on bird flu. The U.S. is making fast progress in preparations for a bird flu pandemic, including measures to close down schools and quarantine the sick, but vaccine supplies remain inadequate, health officials said Sunday, January 1. "We've got a lot of work to do," said Julie Gerberding, director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, citing "bottlenecks" in vaccine production and the delivery of health care if there's an outbreak. Gerberding said some immediate measures to combat the flu in the U.S. and worldwide would include isolating the sick and their immediate

contacts. President Bush last week signed a bill that gives \$3.8 billion to prepare for bird flu. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, appearing on CNN's "Late Edition," praised the money approved by Congress as a good step that will fund one year of preparedness efforts. Still, he said the U.S. is not ready, saying additional money is needed to ensure there would be enough vaccine supplies for all Americans within six months of an initial outbreak. State and local governments also need to step up efforts, Leavitt said.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/01/AR2006010100402.html>

24. *December 31, New York Newsday* — **Bioterror team took note of case.** Suffolk County, NY's bioterrorism response system and a quick-thinking emergency room doctor quickly picked up the anomaly of two people dying minutes apart at a Southampton dialysis clinic — which led to the medical facility's prompt shutdown, Executive Steve Levy said Friday, December 30. The alert system was set up by the county to detect public health emergencies such as an avian flu outbreak or an anthrax attack. Southampton Hospital officials said a preliminary check showed nothing wrong with the equipment or treatment, but the state Health Department immediately launched an investigation. The county learned of the cardiac arrests at the Southampton Hospital Regional Dialysis Center when health department workers at the county's emergency services bunker in Yaphank noticed two ambulance calls to the clinic. And after EMTs called him about the deaths, a Stony Brook University Hospital emergency room physician, Peter Viccellio, contacted Patricia Dillon, the county health department director of communicable diseases. She telephoned the clinic and persuaded them to immediately stop treating patients, Levy said.

Source: <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/health/ny-libio314570682dec31.0.6584531.story?coll=ny-health-headlines>

25. *December 30, Associated Press* — **Four western states report flu widespread.** Arizona, Utah, California, and New Mexico report widespread flu infections, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's weekly flu report. The nation's flu season typically peaks in January, February, or March. The number of flu cases is not known. Many patients do not report cases to doctors, and doctors may not test specifically for flu in people who do seek treatment, officials said. Wait times at some emergency rooms in metropolitan Phoenix are getting longer as flu patients seek treatment, leading some hospitals to rearrange their staffing plans. A spot check of a few hospitals in New Mexico found none inundated by patients. But doctors' offices, urgent care centers, and some emergency rooms in Albuquerque reported an increase in cases. In Los Angeles, about six percent of visitors to clinics and hospitals reported influenza-type symptoms. That figure was nearly 12 percent in the San Francisco area. At the University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City, doctors saw an influx of emergency room patients with flu-like symptoms during the week before Christmas. But the increase was not significantly higher than in busy periods in previous years.

Weekly Report: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/fluactivity.htm>

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=1457697>

26. *December 29, Queens Chronicle (NY)* — **Disaster drill mandated at the New Parkway Hospital.** The New Parkway Hospital, in conjunction with elements of the New York City EMS, recently held a mandated disaster drill to determine the hospital's readiness in the event of a healthcare emergency. Volunteers were told that they had just been exposed to an

unidentified nerve agent, in the local subway. They were then informed as to what symptoms and injuries they were to exhibit to emergency services personnel, at the scene, and at the New Parkway Hospital. Upon arriving at the hospital, victims were immediately triaged by hospital personnel wearing protective gowns and masks. Susana Tinsay, the New Parkway Hospital's director of Emergency Services, coordinated the disaster drill. She interviewed real patients in the hospital emergency room after the drill, in an effort to determine how well these patients were attended to during the drill.

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15834752&BRD=1863&PAG=461&dept_id=152656&rfi=6

27. *December 29, Grand Island Independent (NE)* — Rare but potentially serious illness

identified in Nebraska. Two cases of a bacterial infection that rarely manifests itself in human beings have been detected in Grand Island, NE, prompting health officials to issue a warning to the community. Tularemia, also known as "rabbit fever," is typically found in animals. "We've had two cases in two weeks, and that's pretty exceptional," said Michelle Ellermeier, epidemiology nurse at the state Health Department. "We usually see three to four cases a year, so we felt it necessary to let people know it was out there." The disease, which is not transmitted from person to person, is a rare but potentially serious bacterial infection that manifests itself as a severe skin infection.

Tularemia information: <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/agent/tularemia/index.asp>

Source: http://www.theindependent.com/stories/122905/new_illness29.s.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

28. *December 30, Midland Daily News (MI)* — Courts cleared after bomb threat. The threat of a bomb closed Michigan's Midland County Courthouse for part of the day Thursday, December 29. The threat, a phone call made by an adult male, was received by an employee at the Midland County Clerk's Office in the county building about 10:50 a.m. CST. Midland Police officers and Midland County Sheriff's deputies responded to the call and searched for about two hours after employees were evacuated, states a sheriff's office media release. No suspicious items were found, and the courthouse was reopened at 1 p.m. Until then, officers were stationed at the front doors turning away people as they approached the building. Patrol cars also were parked in front of the entrance. The courthouse has received other bomb threats in the past, the last two occurring in October 2001. In those cases, Michigan State Police search dogs were brought in to search for explosive devices. Security procedures at the courthouse have evolved to include screening all packages that come into the building, leading officials to be fairly certain there was nothing suspicious inside, Sheriff's Capt. Mike Goodall said. While the rate for solving cases of phoned-in threats is not high, the crime is taken seriously.

Source: http://www.ourmidland.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15842031&BRD=2289&PAG=461&dept_id=472542&rfi=6

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

29. *January 01, Los Angeles Times* — **Storm inundates California.** A powerful storm battered Northern California with torrential rains and widespread flooding Saturday, December 31. On Saturday, emergency crews waded through waist-deep water and dropped into flooded areas from helicopters to rescue several stranded residents in submerged vehicles and homes. Few injuries and no deaths were reported, but some residents in hard-hit areas said they experienced extensive property damage. Widespread flooding stretched east as far as Reno, NV, but was most serious along the Russian and Napa rivers. There, rising waters flooded homes and businesses and triggered evacuation of hundreds of residents. The storm had dumped between three and five inches of rain throughout the state in a 24-hour period, setting daily records in some areas of Northern California, said National Weather Service meteorologist Kathy Hoxsie. Marin County, just north of San Francisco, also reported serious flooding and mudslides that damaged a few homes. County officials deployed 100 emergency workers for rescue, evacuation and cleanup operations.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-storm1jan01.0.1508479.story?coll=la-home-headlines>

[[Return to top](#)]

Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *December 31, Security Focus* — **Blackberry Handheld JAD file browser denial of service vulnerability.** Blackberry Handheld devices are prone to a denial of service attack. The embedded Web browser will stop responding due to a dialog box that has not been properly dismissed when handling a malformed JAD (Java Application Description) file. Security Focus reports that the vendor has addressed this issue in version 4.0.2 of the Blackberry Device Software. The vendor encourages affected users to contact their service providers to obtain updated software.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16099/solution>

31. *December 31, Security Focus* — **Blackberry Enterprise Server Router SRP Packet denial of service vulnerability.** The Blackberry Enterprise Server Router component is prone to a denial of service vulnerability. This vulnerability may be triggered by sending malformed SRP (Server Routing Protocol) packets to the router. This could only be exploited by an attacker who can communicate with the router. Security Focus reports that the vendor has acknowledged the issue and stated that it will be corrected in future releases. Security Focus is unaware of any vendor-supplied patches for this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16100/solution>

32. *December 31, Security Focus* — **Blackberry Enterprise Server Attachment Service TIFF attachment denial of service vulnerability.** Research In Motion Blackberry Enterprise Server is prone to denial of service attacks. This issue affects the Attachment Service and may be triggered by a malformed TIFF attachment. The issue is reportedly caused by a heap-based buffer overflow. Security Focus reports that the vendor has stated that this issue will result in a denial of service, and it is therefore not believed that the issue is exploitable beyond a denial of service at the time of writing. This BID will be updated if further information is made available that contradicts this assumption. Security Focus is unaware of any vendor-supplied patches for

this issue.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16098/solution>

- 33. December 28, Federal Computer Week — AT&T launches Webcast to update customers on cybersecurity threats.** AT&T has developed a 24-hour Webcast modeled after TV news programs to provide its customers with up-to-the-minute information about cybersecurity threats. The AT&T Internet Security News Network (ISNN) provides live data and streaming video featuring the company's network security experts and forensic analysts. It is available to customers of AT&T Internet Protect, the company's alerting and monitoring service. AT&T monitors the Internet for security threats and realized it could offer its customers real-time warnings and advice to thwart cyberattacks. If AT&T sees a problem brewing, it can direct Internet Protect customers to the program's portal, where the company provides forensic data and recommendations for action. ISNN provides twice daily broadcasts and live emergency broadcasts that immediately follow security attacks. "Businesses and government entities need a variety of sources of information to be alerted to emerging threats and AT&T ISNN is one source of information with industry-leading experts regarding potential threats," said William Pelgrin, director of the New York State Office of Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Coordination, in a statement. The success of ISNN has encouraged AT&T to consider providing it to the general public as a kind of cybersecurity C-Span.

Source: http://www.fcw.com/article91822-12-28-05-Web&newsletter%3Dye_s

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: US-CERT is aware of a vulnerability reported within Microsoft Windows handling of corrupted Windows Metafiles (".wmf"). This vulnerability may be exploited through the viewing of a corrupted ".wmf" file or by viewing a malicious web site hosting a corrupted ".wmf" file. US-CERT is also aware that exploit code is publicly available and that there are active attempts to exploit this vulnerability. Once exploited, a remote attacker may be able to perform any of the following malicious activities:

- *Execute arbitrary code
- *Cause a denial of service condition
- *Take complete control of a vulnerable system

Although there is limited information concerning this reported vulnerability, US-CERT encourages users to not view ".wmf" files and system administrators to block ".wmf" files at the HTTP proxy and the SMTP level. US-CERT is also aware of reports that this vulnerability may affect users of Microsoft Internet Explorer as well as Mozilla Firefox. We will continue to update current activity as more information becomes available.

For more information about this vulnerability please review:
US–CERT Technical Cyber Alert TA05–363A–Microsoft Windows Metafile Handling Buffer Overflow: <http://www.us-cert.gov/cas/techalerts/TA05–362A.html>
US–CERT Vulnerability Note VU#181038 – Microsoft Windows Metafile handler buffer overflow: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/181038>

Updated version of Ilfak Guilfanov's patch / ,msi file (NEW):
Ilfak Guilfanov has released an updated version of his unofficial patch for the Window's WMF issue. SANS reverse engineered, reviewed, and vetted the version, which is available at: http://handlers.sans.org/tliston/wmffix_hexblog13.exe

Note: If you've already successfully installed the patch, this new version adds nothing new. It only adds code to make it able to install on some other very specific configurations and code to recognize when the patch has already been installed. The Symantec DeepSight Threat Analyst Team has also verified that this hot–fix prevents exploitation of this issue. For additional information, please see: <http://isc.sans.org//diary.php?storyid=999>

Multiple Heap Buffer Overflow Vulnerabilities in Symantec Antivirus Library:
US–CERT is aware of a third party report of multiple heap buffer overflows in the Symantec RAR decompression library (Dec2RAR.dll). Although there is limited information concerning this reported vulnerability, US–CERT encourages users and system administrators to consider filtering or disabling the scanning of RAR archives at email or proxy gateways.

More information can be found in US–CERT Vulnerability Note VU#305272: <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/305272>

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	1026 (win-rpc), 27015 (halflife), 25 (smtp), 445 (microsoft-ds), 80 (www), 32789 (---), 65534 (sbininitd), 53 (domain), 11093 (---), 135 (epmap) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

34. *December 31, Associated Press* — **Problems plague dams in New England.** Thousands of New England residents live and work downstream from centuries–old dams in need of repair, and fixing them could take years and millions of dollars, according to interviews and a review of government documents conducted by The Associated Press. An Associated Press review of documents in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, as well as interviews with state

officials and dam owners, found many dams are not inspected as often as they should be and some go years without recommended repairs. There are more than 7,000 registered dams in southern New England, according to state records. Many date to the late 1600s, said John Harris, director of Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture in New Hampshire. Dams that would likely kill someone or cause a lot of property damage if they failed are designated as "high hazard." Rhode Island listed 61 high-hazard dams, said David Chopy, who oversees dam inspections in Rhode Island. Massachusetts has 320 high-hazard dams, while Connecticut has 237. Federal guidelines call for high-hazard dams to be inspected every two years, but in many cases, they haven't been. None of the three states has enough inspectors to meet standards outlined by the Association of State Dam Safety Officials.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/nation/articles/2005/12/31/problems_plague_dams_in_new_england/

[[Return to top](#)]

General Sector

35. *January 02, CNN* — A "perfect storm" for wildfires. Conditions described as a "perfect storm" for wildfires continued Monday, January 2, in Oklahoma and Texas, where blazes have scorched tens of thousands of acres in less than a week. Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry has asked President Bush to declare an emergency in the state and commit federal resources to battling the fires. Firefighters also struggled Sunday, January 1, to contain fires across the prairies of north-central Texas — including one blaze west of Dallas that stretched for 35 miles, officials said. Authorities have blamed three deaths in Texas and one in Oklahoma on the fires. Oklahoma City firefighters late Sunday contained a grassland wildfire that destroyed several houses in a neighborhood on the city's northeast side, a spokesperson said. Central Oklahoma has had only a quarter-inch of rain since the end of October. High temperatures in recent days have ranged around 80 degrees, and strong, gusty winds have hampered firefighters' efforts, state Fire Marshal Robert Doke said. The smoke and soot stirred up by the fires have left terrain reminiscent of what was left by dust storms in Depression-era Oklahoma, Doke told CNN.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/01/02/wildfires/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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